(b) if so, the details of the major observations/recommendations contained in the Atlas and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon especially the time bound steps initiated, if any, to combat the high rates of malnutrition, particularly amongst the children, in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b) No Sir.

Construction of Food Storage Depots in Gujarat

943. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to construct food storage depots in Gujarat particularly, in Saurashtra-Kutch region and North Gujarat;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c) Food corporation of India propose to construct godown of 25,000 MT capacity at Godhra during the 10th Five Year Plan.

Pilferage and Manipulations in PDS Network in Gujarat

944. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints regarding the pilferage and manipulations in the Public Distribution System network in Gujarat during last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken to redress the complaints?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) to (c), No Sir. No specific complaint has been received by the Central Government regarding pilferage and manipulation in the PDS network in Gujarat during the last three years. However in an operation of

such a vast magnitude the possibility of pilferage and diversion at the FPS and other levels cannot be ruled out. Complaints received are forwarded to the concerned State Governments/UTs for investigation and appropriate action. On investigation, where the complaints are substantiated, the State Government take suitable action under the law.

With a view to maintaining supplies, securing availability and distribution of essential commodities under the Public Distribution System, the PDS (Control) Order 2001 has been notified on 31.8.2001 under Section 3 of Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Revamping of the Existing PDS

945. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal has been formulated to revamp the existing Public Distribution System to ensure fair distribution of food supplies to the targeted consumers;

(b) if so, the details thereof, especially the pattren to monitoring mechanism outlines for effective functioning of the PDS;

(c) whether it is a fact that some new programmes for consumers have been drawn up for implementation through the "Welfare Councils" to make the consumers aware of their rights; and

(d) if so, the details thereof with their present status?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) and (b), Several steps have been initiated by the Government to strengthen the Public Distribution System. These steps *inter-alia* include promulgation of PDS (Control) Order, constitution of Task Force, implementation of Antyodaya Anna Yojana, enhancing the scale of issue for the BPL families from 25 kg to 35 kg per family per month. As per PDS (Control) Order the State Governments shall ensure a proper system of monitoring of fair price shops (FPS), regular inspection of FPS at least once in six months, holding of regular meetings of Vigilance Committee at State, District, Block and FPS levels and report periodically on utilisation of foodgrains allocated to them. They are also required to make arrangement